THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN
...MY MOST HUMBLE APOLOGIES! I AM TRULY ASHAMED OF OUR FAILURE!
Once a hero who fought for Pars, Kharlan is now pulling the strings for the enemy nation of Lusitania!!
THE CROWN PRINCE ARSLAN AND HIS OUTLAW ACCOMPLICES ...
...HAVE BROKEN THROUGH OUR SIEGE AND VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE!!
PSH
USELESS BUFFOONS ...

DARYUN AND NARSUS ARE NO ORDI-NARY MEN!!
I WARNED YOU TIME AND AGAIN TO BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING!!
WE ARE VERY SORRY, SIR!!
KLONK
どかっ
......LEAVE ME.
SIR ...!
YES, SIR!!

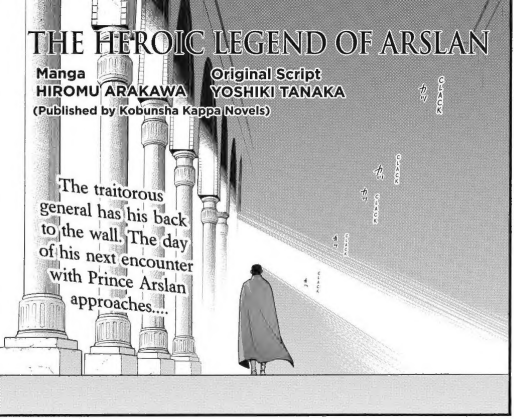
MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES ...
YOU WERE TOO EASY ON THEM, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
I AM TRULY ASHAMED.
...NO, NEVER MIND.
I SPOKE TOO HAR-SHLY.
PARS IS A VAST NATION.
ANDRAGORAS'S BRAT COULD BE HIDING ANYWHERE.
I'M STILL EXPECTING RESULTS FROM YOU.
ERĀN KHARLAN.

...I WILL ASK DUKE GUISCARD FOR PERMISSION TO MOBILIZE THE TROOPS.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
LOOK AT THE HIGH AND MIGHTY TRAITOR.
SINCE WHEN DID WE LET GUYS LIKE HIM BE A PART OF OUR POLITICAL PROCESS? WE ***CONQUERED*** HIS PEOPLE, AND HE'S NOT EVEN A MEMBER OF OUR FAITH.
I GUESS RISKING YOUR LIFE FIGHTING THE INFIDELS DOESN'T GET YOU TO THE TOP AS FAST AS BEING BORN ONE OF 'EM AND SELLING OUT YOUR FRIENDS.
AW, MAN, I CHOSE THE WRONG PLACE TO BE BORN.

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

Manga
HIROMU ARAKAWA
(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)

Original Script
YOSHIKI TANAKA


The traitorous general has his back to the wall. The day of his next encounter with Prince Arslan approaches....
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

CHAPTER 11: KHARLAN GOES TO BATTLE

STILL NO CLUES...
IT'S BEEN DAYS.
THAT SHEL-TERED KID...
HE SEEMED LIKE A SPOILED KID FROM A RICH FAMILY.
THEY MIGHT USE A LOT OF SLAVES.
MAYBE IF I ASKED HIM...

NO.
A DOLT LIKE HIM WOULD'VE BEEN KILLED BY OUR ARMIES AGES AGO...
MAKE WAY!!

YOU'RE IN THE WAY!
CLEAR A PATH!!
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

YOU THERE. GIRL. WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU LOOK NERVOUS.
!
YES, SIR!

I WAS JUST WONDERING WHAT ALL THE SOLDIERS WERE FOR...
WHAT DO YOU *THINK* THEY'RE FOR?
THOSE ARE MARZBĀN... OOPS, HE'S AN ERĀN NOW. THEY'RE LORD KHARLAN'S TROOPS.
WHERE ARE THEY GOING, SIR?
THEY'RE GOING TO CAPTURE ARSLAN.
THE PRINCE? I HEARD HE HAD GONE MISSING. DO THEY KNOW WHERE HE IS?
OF COURSE THEY ...
...HUH. WHERE *IS* THE PRINCE?
WHAT?
I HEARD RUMORS THAT KING ANDRAGORAS HAS GONE MISSING AS WELL?
UH...YEAH, I GUESS HE HAS.

WELL ... ANY-WAY.
LET'S DISCUSS THE DETAILS OVER HERE.
HUH ...?
WHAT?!
PLEASE STOP!
I WORK FOR LORD KHARLAN.
I'LL TELL YOU ANY-THING YOU WANT TO KNOW.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME! I CON-VERTED TO YALDA-BOATH!
OH YOU DID, DID YOU? SO DID I!
LET'S GO INSIDE AND GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.
TCH...
HEY, YOU! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

LET THE GIRL G...
TWITCH
ビク
ビク
TWITCH
BIB BIB
WHOOSH

KA-CLING
GH-GH
KHNG
YOU ...!
KHNG
SHING
KHLING
I AM A SQUIRE TO LUSITANIAN GENERAL COUNT BARCASION!
MY NAME IS ÉTOILE!!
KSH
YOU'RE NO ORDINARY VILLAGE GIRL, ARE YOU?!
KSH
KSH
KSH
AND YOU'RE ...
NOT JUST A MINDLESS LUSITANIAN SOLDIER.
KSH

GIRL !!
STATE YOUR NAME!!
FIP!
I GOT Y...
?!
ZLRB

A BOY?!
KAPOW
KER-SMASH
CRASH
YOU ...!
COUGH

IT'S A LUSI-TANIAN SOLDIER!
LUSI-TANIA ?!
GHOLAM ...?
STEP DOWN.
WHEN ?!!
WHEN WILL YOU MAKE US ĀZĀT?!!
WE HELPED YOU OPEN THE GATE!!
YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD FREE US FROM SLAVERY IF WE HELPED YOU!
W...WAIT!
I TRUSTED YOU! I KILLED MY MASTER FOR YOU!!
AND YOU HAVEN'T DONE A THING FOR ME!!
GIVE US LAND!! GIVE US MONEY!!
IF YOU DON'T DO SOME-THING, I'LL STARVE TO DEATH!!
I'M ASKING YOU TO BE PATIENT.
I'LL TALK TO MY SUPERIORS...
BUT WHEN ?!!
DO IT NOW !!

BAH
AH!
WAIT, YOU—!
YOU PROMISED !!
MAKE US ĀZĀT !!
GIVE US MONEY !!
GIVE US LAND!!
DO IT NOW !!
NOW !!!
NOW !!!!
NOW !!!!!
ECBATANA HAS FALLEN TO LUSITANIA.
AND MY FATHER ?!

I COULDN'T TO PINPOINT THE WHEREABOUTS OF KING ANDRAGORAS, BUT IT SEEMS THAT KHARLAN'S MEN AND THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE JUST AS IGNORANT AS WE ARE.
KHARLAN IS LEADING TROOPS OUT OF THE CASTLE TO CAPTURE YOUR HIGHNESS PRINCE ARSLAN.
I SAW AT LEAST A THOUSAND CAVALRYMEN.
WHAT ...?
I THINK THAT'S A LITTLE MUCH JUST TO CAPTURE *ME.*
THEY DON'T KNOW OUR NUMBERS.
BESIDES, YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU ARE A "WALKING CAUSE."
IF WE SET YOU UP AT THE HEAD OF AN ARMY, WE COULD MUSTER ENOUGH FORCE TO OPPOSE LUSITANIA.
THAT WOULD BE EXTREMELY BAD FOR THEM.
IT'S A SMALL WONDER KHARLAN IS SO RESTLESS.

KHARLAN DOESN'T KNOW I'M HIDING HERE. HOW DOES HE PLAN TO FIND ME?
IF I WERE KHARLAN, AND I WANTED TO FIND YOU AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE...
I WOULD START BY CHOOSING A RANDOM VILLAGE AND SETTING IT ON FIRE.
SET IT ON FIRE...?!
ONCE I'VE DONE THAT, THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF WAYS TO FIND YOU.
FIRST, ONCE THE VILLAGE IS BURNED TO THE GROUND AND THE VILLAGERS KILLED, I COULD ANNOUNCE IT TO THE WORLD, ALONG WITH A WARNING TO YOU—
A THREAT TO BURN DOWN MORE VILLAGES AND KILL MORE INNOCENT PEOPLE UNTIL YOU SHOW YOURSELF.
I COULD LIST OTHER STRATEGIES...
BUT...BUT WAIT! WOULD KHARLAN REALLY STOOP THAT LOW?
HE MAY BE A TRAITOR, BUT HE'S STILL A MILITARY MAN!

OH, YES. AN EXEMPLARY MILITARY MAN WHO SOLD OUT HIS KING AND HIS COUNTRY.
... NARSUS.
RUSTLE
CAN YOU FIND OUT WHICH VILLAGE KHARLAN WOULD ATTACK?

OF COURSE I CAN.
HOW?
HIS TROOPS WILL TAKE US RIGHT TO IT.
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS FOLLOW THEM.
IS THAT WHAT YOU WISH TO DO?
WE'LL LEAVE AT ONCE !!
READY THE HORSES !!
He knows he is weak.... But he must do something!! He must strike down the traitor to save his people! Arslan takes the field!!

KHARLAN IS NO SIMPLE MAN.

...SO IF YOU THINK SO, THEN WHY DON'T YOU STOP HIM?
IT'S POSSIBLE, ISN'T IT?
A "TRAP TO LURE OUT HIS HIGHNESS," HM?
FOR HIM TO SO OPENLY GATHER AN ARMY AND LEAVE THE CAPITAL IN BROAD DAYLIGHT...

EITHER WAY, WITHOUT HEARING IT FROM KHARLAN'S MOUTH, WE HAVE NO WAY TO KNOW WHAT THE SITUATION IS BEHIND THE SCENES.

I HAVE RATHER HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PRINCE'S ABILITIES.
OH, DARYUN.

...WERE YOU NOT PLANNING TO CONSIDER THE PRINCE UNFIT AS A MONARCH AND ABANDON HIM IF HE DIDN'T GO SAVE THE VILLAGE?
...YOU INCIDENTALLY CAN'T AVOID GOING INTO A LION'S DEN, CAN YOU?
IN ORDER TO CAPTURE A LION CUB...
WHILE WE'RE HERE DOING THIS, THE VILLAGE COULD BE UNDER ATTACK!
DARYUN! NARSUS! LET'S HURRY UP AND LEAVE!

This story is fiction. It has no connection to real people, groups or events.

Chapter Twelve: A Peerless Beauty

WE DON'T HAVE ANY.
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE HORSE, EITHER.
THE LUSITANIANS TOOK IT ALL.
NOT JUST THE HORSES, BUT THE SHEEP, THE FOOD, AND EVERYTHING ELSE...
SORRY, KID.
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SELL YOU...
BUT IT'S STILL NOT TOO BAD HERE.
THEY SAY THERE ARE SOME VILLAGES WHERE ON TOP OF TAKING EVERYTHING, THEY MASSACRED EVERYONE TOO...
DAMNED LUSITANI-ANS...!!

I GIVE UP...
DOES THIS MEAN I HAVE TO START WALKING CARRYING THIS LUGGAGE AGAIN...?
NEEIGHH
ドガガッ
TH-THUMP
わっ
WAH
GRRAH, YOU'RE IN MY WAY!! I'LL TRAMPLE YOU!!
ドガッ
THMPP
ドガッ
THMPP
HURRY UP AND GIVE ME FOOD!!
PLEASE FORGIVE US!! WE NO LONGER HAVE ANYTHING!!
A YOUNG WOMAN, THEN!!
HHN?
WHAT'S WITH YOU?!

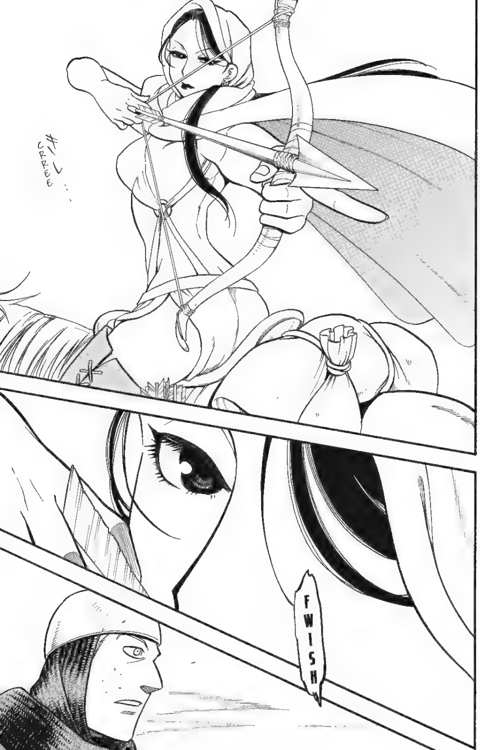
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
SK-KR
RRRUUUMMMBLLL
WHOOPS ...
BBBLLLL
RRRRUUMMMM
LUSITANIAN SOLDIERS, HM...?
IT'S BETTER NOT TO GET IN ANY UNNECESSARY FIGHTS.

THE RUMORS ARE TRUE. IT SEEMS LIKE THE OTHER VILLAGES ARE GETTING HIT HARD TOO...
WELL, NOT THAT IT INVOLVES ME, THOUGH.
CL-CLOP
CL-CLOP
!
CLA
CLA
CLA
CLA
CLA

パカラッ
CL-CLOP
パカラッ
CL-CLOP
パカッ
CLOP
パカッ
CLOP
パカラ
CL-CLOP
パカラ
CL-CLOP
パカラッ
CL-CLOP

...
OOPS, THIS IS BAD! THOSE LUSITANIAN SOLDIERS FROM BEFORE ARE PAST HERE!
THEY'LL ATTACK THE LADY!
HMH! THAT'S THE KIND OF QUALITY WOMAN YOU HARDLY EVER FIND!
ぱしん
SLAP
SHE EVEN SURPASSES THAT LYING QUEEN, BECAUSE OF HER YOUTH!
AND THEN I'LL SAVE HER THERE.
NATURALLY, SHE'LL HAVE FEELINGS OF THANKS AND RESPECT FOR ME.
AND THEN SHE'LL PROBABLY FEEL SHE HAS TO GIVE ME SOME KIND OF TOKEN OF HER GRATITUDE.
THAT'S LIKELY WHAT'LL HAPPEN. I HOPE THAT'LL HAPPEN. THAT'S WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN.
OKAY, I'LL GO AFTER HER!
ドカカッ
TH-THUMP
ドカカッ
TH-THUMP
ドカカッ
TH-THUMP
ドカカッ
TH-THUMP
!

OH, ASHI, GODDESS OF FORTUNE!
YOU HAVE ALREADY GRANTED THIS MOST HANDSOME AND GOOD-LOOKING OF YOUR FOLLOWERS YOUR FAVOR.
GLIDE
NEIGH
TAP
WAIT, WOMAN!!
TA-THUMP
TA-THUMP
TA-THUMP


ギレ…
URRGG
FWISH

BAM
THUDDD
しゃあ
がぼっ
GBWOH
GWAH!

GWAH!
WAH!
THUNK
SQUOOSH
THWIP
THWIP
HEY, HEY, YOU'RE KIDDING ME...
AT THIS RATE I'LL HAVE NO CHANCE TO MAKE HER FEEL GRATITUDE TOWARDS ME!!
THMPP

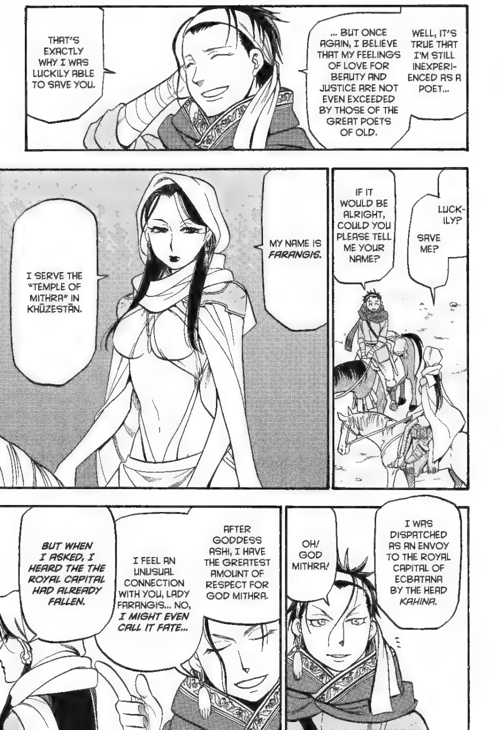
?!
THWAP
...NH?!
WH... WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...?

SQUOOSH
THWACK
THUD
SKRRRSH
WOAH! WOAH!
EEEE!
THEY'RE RUN-NING?
TH- TH- TH- TH- TH- TH-
THUMP
THAT'S SENSI-BLE OF THEM.
THAT WAS A NARROW ESCAPE, M'LADY.
IF I, GIEVE, HADN'T JUST HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY...

Please Send Your Impressions to Arakawa-sensei and Tanaka-sensei!
112-8001 Tokyo-to, Bunkyo-ku, Otowa 2-12-21 Kodansha, c/o Bessatsu Shonen Magazine Editoria Dept.
attn "Arakawa H romu sense" or "Tanaka Yoshik sensei"

YOU PEERLESS BEAUTY OVER THERE.
DID YOU CALL ME?
STOP
BECAUSE THERE ARE NOT SO MANY PEERLESS BEAUTIES, LET ALONE NORMALLY BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.
WHY, YOUR BEAUTY ALONG WITH YOUR MARTIAL PROWESS!
I TRULY ADMIRE YOU!
MY NAME IS GIEVE.

THOUGH I'M A TRAVELING MUSICIAN WITHOUT EVEN A HOME IN WHICH TO LIVE, I PRIDE MYSELF IN HAVING A HEART THAT APPRECIATES BEAUTY EVEN MORE THAN THE ROYALTY AND NOBILITY DO.
JUST NOW, I'VE USED MY LACKING POETIC SKILLS TO COMPOSE A SONG OF YOUR PRAISE.
...
"YOUR FORM STRETCHES OUT GRACEFULLY LIKE A CYPRESS.
YOUR BLACK HAIR IS A PIECE CUT OUT OF THE NIGHT SKY.
YOUR EYES SURPASS EMERALD.
THE CHARM OF YOUR LIPS IS LIKE A ROSE PETAL, WET WITH MORNING DEW..."
FOR A WANDERING MINSTREL YOU SEEM TO LACK ORIGINALITY.


WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT I'M STILL INEXPERI-ENCED AS A POET...
... BUT ONCE AGAIN, I BELIEVE THAT MY FEELINGS OF LOVE FOR BEAUTY AND JUSTICE ARE NOT EVEN EXCEEDED BY THOSE OF THE GREAT POETS OF OLD.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I WAS LUCKILY ABLE TO SAVE YOU.
LUCK-ILY?
SAVE ME?
IF IT WOULD BE ALRIGHT, COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME YOUR NAME?
MY NAME IS *FARANGIS.*
I SERVE THE "TEMPLE OF MITHRA" IN KHŪZESTĀN.
I WAS DISPATCHED AS AN ENVOY TO THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF ECBATANA BY THE HEAD *KAHINA.*
OH! GOD MITHRA!
AFTER GODDESS ASHI, I HAVE THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF RESPECT FOR GOD MITHRA.
I FEEL AN UNUSUAL CONNECTION WITH YOU, LADY FARANGIS... NO, *I MIGHT EVEN CALL IT FATE...*
BUT WHEN I ASKED, I HEARD THE THE ROYAL CAPITAL HAD ALREADY FALLEN.

I CAN'T JUST GO HOME DISAPPOINTED, SO FOR THE TIME BEING I WAS LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO STAY TONIGHT... AND WHILE I WAS THINKING ABOUT THAT, I RAN INTO THOSE LUSITANIAN DOGS.
I'VE SEEN IT ALONG THE WAY, HOW TRULY INHUMAN THE BARBARISM OF THE LUSITANIANS IS.
OH, THAT'S WHAT I'VE JUST SEEN TOO!
WHILE THEY SAY THEY SERVE GOD, THEY HAVE NO FEELINGS OF MERCY OR AFFECTION AT ALL!
AMONG THE PARSIANS, TOO, I HAVE HEARD THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE THE CONFUSION AND STEALING RICHES FROM THE TEMPLES AND FLEEING THE ROYAL CAPITAL, AND SUCH...
AS SOMEONE WHO SERVES GOD, I, FARANGIS, FIND THIS TRULY DEPLORABLE.
...WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS DID YOU HAVE IN THE ROYAL CAPITAL?
I WAS TRYING TO GO TO THE CROWN PRINCE, HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN'S SIDE.

NO, NO, NO! IF YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR HIM, THEN I CAN LIKELY BE OF SERVICE!

I SEE. THEN, FARE-WELL.

CL-CLOP

NO, I DON'T.

SIR BARD, MIGHT YOU KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF HIS HIGHNESS THE PRINCE?

BECAUSE OF THAT, THE DYING WISH OF THE PRIOR HEAD *KAHINA* WAS THAT IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO HIS HIGHNESS, THOSE OF US SKILLED IN THE MARTIAL ARTS WOULD AID HIM.

MY TEMPLE WAS A DONATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE BIRTH OF HIS HIGHNESS, ARSLAN, IN HIS HIGHNESS' NAME.

WHY ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR HIS HIGHNESS, ARSLAN?

I SEE.

MY FELLOW PRIESTESSES ARE JEALOUS OF ME AS A BEAUTIFUL, TALENTED WOMAN WITH ACADEMIC AND MARTIAL EXPERTISE.

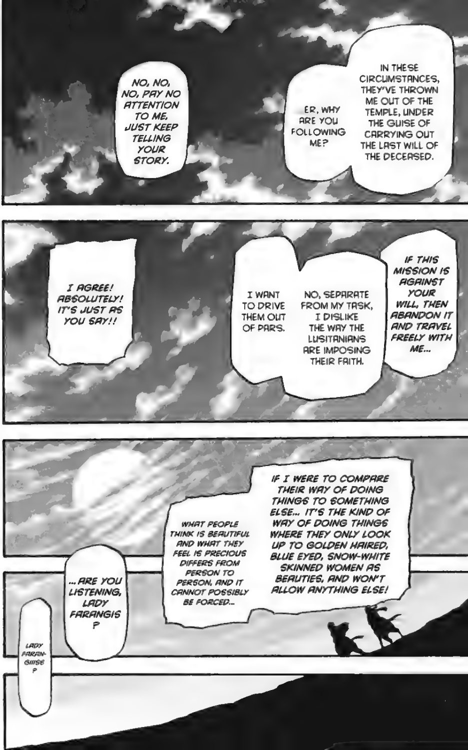
DIREC!

WHY?

...AT ANY RATE, IT WAS LIKELY JUST A WAY TO GET RID OF A NUISANCE.

AND THERE I WAS CHOSEN, BUT...

"Strike Shot" ▸ "Whirl" / "The Heroic Legend of Arslan" 16 volume translation ▸ Hiromi Tōsaka, Arata Kanoh (Vol.1) / "Legend of the Galactic Heroes" 8, 10, 20, 22 ▸ Yoshiki Tanaka / "Slayers" 4 ▸ Hajime Kanzaka / "Record of Lodoss War" 2 ▸ Ryo Mizuno / "Dragon Half" 3 ▸ Kei Kusunoki / "Tactics" 3 ▸ Yuna Kagesaki / "Fushigi Yugi" 3 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Ceres, Celestial Legend" 4 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Fuuka" 4 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Tokyo Babylon" 2 ▸ CLAMP / "Magic Knight Rayearth" 2 ▸ CLAMP / "Cardcaptor Sakura" 7 ▸ CLAMP / "Angelic Layer" 3 ▸ CLAMP / "Chobits" 4 ▸ CLAMP / "Suikoden" 3 ▸ Yoshiki Tanaka / "Suikoden II" 3 ▸ Yoshiki Tanaka / "Suikoden III" 3 ▸ Yoshiki Tanaka / "Suikoden Tierkreis" 3 ▸ Yoshiki Tanaka / "Twin Signal" 4 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Alice 19th" 3 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Eternal Sabaku no Hana" 3 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Ayashi no Ceres" 4 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Imadoki no Minmi" 3 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Absolute Boyfriend" 2 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Fushigi Yugi Genbu Kaiden" 3 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Fushigi Yugi Genbu Kaiden Eternal Edition" 3 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Fushigi Yugi Genbu Kaiden Shinsouban" 3 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Fushigi Yugi Genbu Kaiden Perfect Edition" 3 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Fushigi Yugi Genbu Kaiden Kanzenban" 3 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Fushigi Yugi Genbu Kaiden Bunkoban" 3 ▸ Yuu Watase / "Fushigi Yugi Genbu Kaiden Aizouban

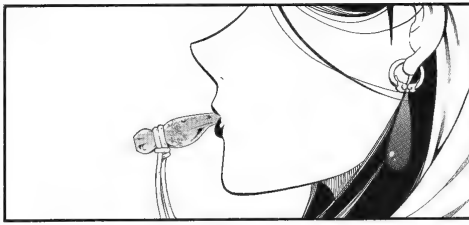

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY'VE THROWN ME OUT OF THE TEMPLE, UNDER THE GUISE OF CARRYING OUT THE LAST WILL OF THE DECEASED.
ER, WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?
NO, NO, NO, PAY NO ATTENTION TO ME, JUST KEEP TELLING YOUR STORY.
IF THIS MISSION IS AGAINST YOUR WILL, THEN ABANDON IT AND TRAVEL FREELY WITH ME...
NO, SEPARATE FROM MY TASK, I DISLIKE THE WAY THE LUSITANIANS ARE IMPOSING THEIR FAITH.
I WANT TO DRIVE THEM OUT OF PARS.
I AGREE! ABSOLUTELY! IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY!!
IF I WERE TO COMPARE THEIR WAY OF DOING THINGS TO SOMETHING ELSE... IT'S THE KIND OF WAY OF DOING THINGS WHERE THEY ONLY LOOK UP TO GOLDEN HAIRED, BLUE EYED, SNOW-WHITE SKINNED WOMEN AS BEAUTIES, AND WON'T ALLOW ANYTHING ELSE!
WHAT PEOPLE THINK IS BEAUTIFUL AND WHAT THEY FEEL IS PRECIOUS DIFFERS FROM PERSON TO PERSON, AND IT CANNOT POSSIBLY BE FORCED...
...ARE YOU LISTENING, LADY FARANGIS?
LADY FARAN-GIIISE?

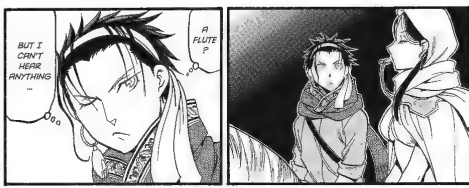
FWWOOOOMMN
あっ
PLEASE FORGIVE US!!
FOR-GIVE US!!

WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!!
IT'S TRUE!!
WHY ARE PARSIAN SOLDIERS ATTACKING PARSIAN PEOPLE LIKE US?!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?!
BURN THEM TO DEATH!
...ONLY THE MEN, THOUGH.

WHOOAAA!
NNOOO, DEARRR!!
PLEASE WAIT!! WE REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!!
WELL THEN, SPREAD THE WORD.
THAT IF YOU HARBOR ARSLAN AND HIS PARTY, THEN WE'LL MASSACRE ALL THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN, TOO!!
The young boy, Arslan, the rebel hero, Kharlan, the wandering musician and the *kahina*. The joining of all of their fates is at hand!!
END of chapter 12

The travelling musician Gieve and the priestess Farangis are led by fate to Arslan's side!!





...I SEE.
ACCORDING TO THE DJINN, IT SEEMS THE ONLY THING SINCERE ABOUT YOU ARE YOUR FEELINGS OF HATRED FOR LUSITANIA.
DJINN ?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL.
YOU LIKELY WOULDN'T.

EVEN IF BABIES HEAR PEOPLE'S VOICES, THEY CAN'T COMPREHEND THE MEANING OF THEIR WORDS.
YOU'RE JUST LIKE THAT.
YOU CAN HEAR THE SOUNDS OF THE WIND, BUT PROBABLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE WHISPERS OF THE *DJINN* THAT IT CARRIES.
I SEE! SO I AM A BABY, THEN!
DON'T TAKE MY WORDS AT FACE VALUE.
HOW COULD THERE POSSIBLY BE ANY BABY AS MALICIOUS AS YOU?
AT ANY RATE, SINCE YOU'VE ACKNOWLEDGED MY TRUSTWORTHINESS, COULD YOU ALLOW ME TO GO WITH YOU?
DO AS YOU PLEASE.
BUT ONLY IF YOU'LL PLEDGE YOUR LOYALTY TO HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN, AS I HAVE.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH LOYALTY TO GO AROUND, LADY FARANGIS, SO I'VE ALREADY GOT MY HANDS FULL WITH YOU.
I HAVE NO NEED FOR SUCH THINGS AS YOUR LOYALTY.
IT'S RATHER COLD OF YOU TO PUT IT THAT WAY.
THIS IS OUR RELATIONSHIP YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, LADY FARANGIS.
WHAT RELATIONSHIP IS THAT?!
CL- CLOP CL- CLOP CL- CL- CLOP CLOP

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
RRUMMMBBLLL
PAR-SIAN SOL-DIERS ...
THEY AREN'T, ARE THEY?
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

CL- CLOP
CL- CLOP
THOSE ARE THAT TRAITOR *MARZBĀN* KHARLAN'S MEN.
IT WOULD LIKELY BE BETTER NOT TO DEAL WITH THEM.
CL- CLOP
CL- CLOP
CLOP
CL- CLOP
RRRRUMMMBBLLLLE
THERE MIGHT BE ONE AMONG THOSE MEN WHO KNOWS HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN'S LOCATION.
SHALL WE TRY FOLLOWING THEM?

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN
Manga
HIROMU ARAKAWA
Original Script
YOSHIKI TANAKA
(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)
The traitorous Kharlan, searching for Arslan, marches his men forward, laying waste in their wake!!
Chapter Thirteen / The Traitor Hero
IT SEEMS THIS MAN WAS HIRED AS A PORTER FOR PRINCE ARSLAN'S PARTY.
HMM
HOW DID YOU GET THOSE WOUNDS?
THEY WERE GIVEN TO ME BY ONE OF ARSLAN'S MEN!
HE TRIED TO KILL ME!!
IT SEEMS HE WAS SEVERELY BEATEN WHEN HE TRIED TO STEAL THE PRINCE'S EFFECTS.

...
HOW MANY MEN WERE IN THE PRINCE'S GROUP?
ONLY FOUR!
DON'T LIE!! THERE HAVE GOT TO BE A HUNDRED TIMES THAT MANY!!
IT'S TRUE!! ON TOP OF THAT, TWO OF THEM ARE CHILDREN ...!!
THAT'S WHY THEY HIRED ME AS A PORTER!!
...SO WHAT DIRECTION DID THE PRINCE HEAD IN?
SOUTH!!
WHEN I HEARD LORD KHARLAN WAS LOOKING FOR THE PRINCE I DRAGGED MYSELF ALL THE WAY HERE!
HEY, SO THIS IS INFO I CAN GET A REWARD FOR, RIGHT?! HUH?! HUH?!
WHY YOU ...
YOU'LL GIVE ME SOME-THING, WON'T YOU?!
HMM, VERY WELL.
HEHEHE, WHY THANK Y...

THUNK
NHE?
YOU FOOL. YOU THINK I'D FALL FOR THAT?
LORD KHARLAN?!
THIS MAN WAS NARSUS' AGENT.
THOSE WOUNDS ON HIS BODY WERE ALSO LIKELY A TRICK TO FOOL US INTO BELIEVE HIM.
SO THEN THE PRINCE'S GROUP IS NEARBY...?
HE SAID *"THE GROUP WENT SOUTH,"* DIDN'T HE?

SEVERAL OF THESE TRAVELERS ARE SAYING THAT THEY SAW PEOPLE THAT LOOKED LIKE ARSLAN'S GROUP.
LORD KHAR-LAN!!
EACH OF THEM AGREES THAT "THEY HEADED NORTH."
JUST AS I SUS-PECTED!
IF THEY PASS THROUGH THE MOUNTAINOUS REGION IN THE NORTH, THEY'LL ARRIVE AT A ROAD LEADING TO NARSUS' OLD TERRITORY, DAYLAM.
OR ELSE THEY'LL CONTINUE LIKE THAT ALL THE WAY PAST IT TO THE EAST...
KISHWARD AND BAHMAN ARE AT PESHAWAR CITADEL TO THE EAST!
WE'RE HEAD-ING OUT!!
ALL MEN TO THE NORTH!!
YES, SIR!!

INTENDING TO OUTWIT ME, YOU LET YOURSELF BE LURED INTO THIS MOUNTAINOUS REGION WITHOUT ANY SUSPICIONS AT ALL, KHARLAN.

NO ONE PLAYS INTO MY PLANS AS WELL AS SOMEONE TOO SMART BY HALF...
WHOOSH
...!!

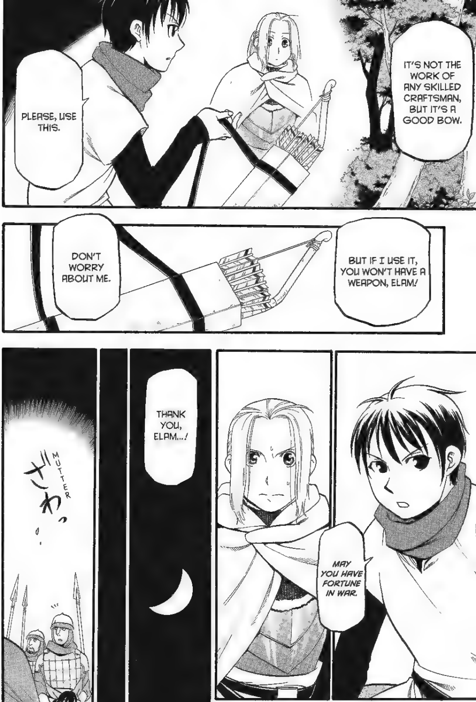
CRRINNGGG
!!
SO YOU'RE NOT A LUSITANIAN SOLDIER?
SO YOU'RE NOT ONE OF KHARLAN'S MEN?
WHO ARE YOU?

!
HOW RUDE OF ME.
I'M NARSUS, A SERVANT OF HIS HIGHNESS, ARSLAN.
I AM FARANGIS.
A SERVANT OF DIVINE MITHRA.
OHH, AN ALLY FOR HIS HIGNESS!
I'VE COME ALONG BECAUSE I WANTED TO ASSIST HIS HIGNESS ARSLAN.
I'VE FOLLOWED DUKE KHARLAN'S TROOPS QUITE A LONG WAY TO ARRIVE HERE.
GOOD, THEN WE'LL HAVE YOU WORK WITH US RIGHT AWAY.
YOU'RE NOT SUSPICIOUS OF ME?
IF YOU WERE FROM KHARLAN'S FACTION OR ON THE SIDE OF THE LUSITANIANS, THEN RIGHT NOW YOU'D SCREAM TO LET THEM KNOW WHERE I WAS, WOULDN'T YOU?

AFTER THIS WE'RE GOING TO CAPTURE THE TRAITOR KHARLAN AND TAKE HIM TO WHERE HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN IS.
I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE ADDITIONAL HELP.
RIGHT NOW, HOW MANY ARE IN THE SERVICE OF HIS HIGHNESS?
IT'S ME, MY *RETAK* AND ONE PEERLESS KNIGHT...
ADDING YOU TWO TO THAT MAKES IT FIVE.
KHARLAN'S FORCES ARE COMING.

SO THAT MEANS THEY FELL CLEANLY INTO NARSUS' PLAN, THEN?
YES.
HE INTENTIONALLY HIRED AN UNTRUSTWORTHY MAN AND TOLD HIM "WE'RE HEADING SOUTH."
JUST AS EXPECTED, THAT MAN TRIED TO STEAL FROM US, AND WAS BEATEN BY DARYUN.
SO THE MAN WENT TO KHARLAN TO RAT US OUT...
WITH THE INTENTION OF HAVING OUTFOXED LORD NARSUS, KHARLAN THINKS THE MAN'S A PLANT.
WE INTENTIONALLY AND OBVIOUSLY SHOW OURSELVES HEADING NORTH TO THE TRAVELERS ON THE ROAD...
AND THINKING HIS EXPECTATIONS CONFIRMED, KHARLAN HEADS THIS WAY WITHOUT ANY SUSPICION AT ALL...
RIGHT INTO THIS DISADVANTAGEOUS TERRAIN FOR A LARGE ARMY.
AT LAST, KHARLAN AND I WILL...

ARE YOU ANXIOUS?
...I'M NOT ANXIOUS... WHICH WOULD BE A LIE, IF I WERE TO SAY SO...
BUT I HAVE TO DO IT!
YOUR HIGHNESS.
I'M SURE YOU DON'T FEEL SECURE WITH JUST THE ONE SWORD.


IT'S NOT THE WORK OF ANY SKILLED CRAFTSMAN, BUT IT'S A GOOD BOW.
PLEASE, USE THIS.
BUT IF I USE IT, YOU WON'T HAVE A WEAPON, ELAM!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
MAY YOU HAVE FORTUNE IN WAR.
THANK YOU, ELAM...!
ざわっ
MUTTER

THERE HE IS!
ON TOP OF THE CLIFF!
IT'S PRINCE ARSLAN !!

KILL HIM!!
RRROOAAAAAARRRR
HIS HEAD HAS A BOUNTY OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND GOLD COINS ON IT!!
WOOOOAAAA
FWOOSH
GAH !!

WHOOAAAAA!
YOU IDIOT ...!
GWAH!
CRUMBL
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
FWISH
FWISHH
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
FWOO..

FWOOSH
WRAP
THSKRSHH
WE'VE FALLEN INTO A TRAP!!
WE WERE LURED INTO THIS MOUNTAIN... INTO THIS TERRAIN!!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

OUT OF MY WAY!!
FWISH
FWISH
CLACK
CLACK
CL-CLACK
!

CI-CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLACKK
KHAR-LAN...
I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
AS A MARZ-BĀN ...
NO, EVEN BEFORE THAT, AS A PARSIAN KNIGHT WHO WAS NEVER SO MUCH AS HELD IN CONTEMPT BY ANYONE, WHY DO YOU BOW DOWN TO LUSITANIA?

I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT YOU WERE LURED BY GREED.
IF THERE'S A REASON, I INSIST THAT YOU TELL ME.
CL-CLACK
YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING.
YOU SHOULD DIE BELIEVING THAT I, KHARLAN, AM A MONSTROUS TRAITOR.
CREEE
AC-CURSED SON OF ANDRA-GORAS !!

FWOOO
CRE
CRE
CRE
CRE
CR-CRE
CR-CRE
CR-CRE
THUNK

YOUR OPPONENT IS ME...
KHARLAN!!
The jet-black savior arrives!! A final battle breaks out between heroes! This is a fight to the death which will determine the future of Pars!!
END of chapter 13

It's Arslan's squad vs. Kharlan's squad!! Arslan's men rise to the challenge with just six people!!
CLATTER
CLATTER
WHEEIGHHH
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER

WHAT'S HAP-PENING ON TOP OF THE CLIFF?!
WHERE'S LORD KHARLAN ?!
HAND OVER MORE OF THOSE TORCHES!
HE RODE UP ON HIS OWN!!
HOW MANY ENEMIES ARE THERE ?!
I HEARD THERE WERE FOUR OF THEM, INCLUD-ING THE PRINCE...
ROLL
BUT WHY, EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE ONLY FOUR MEN...?
ROLL
GAAAAAHH
WHOA ?!
WHY, YOU ...
THUNK
CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP

GLIDE
IT'S NARSUS!! FOLLOW H...
... NH?!
THUP
GHH!!
...ERH... FORGET ABOUT IT!! SHOOT FOR THE DIRECTION HE RAN OFF IN!!
WHERE ?!
AN AMBUSH FROM THE FOREST TO OUR LEFT FRONT!!
IT'S AN ARCHER !!

GA-THWAP
HUH ?!
HUH ?!
THAT HORSE IS OUTFITTED IN THE LUSITANIAN WAY?!
?!
TH-PWASH

HE'S NOT BAD!
IT'S AN ATTACK FROM THE RIGHT!!
NO, BELOW, ISN'T IT?!
THEN WHAT'S COMING AT US FROM ABOVE?!
WE'RE SUR-ROUNDED?!
JUST HOW MANY SPOTS DO THEY HAVE MEN WAITING IN AMBUSH?!
I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE JUST TEN MEN!
COULDN'T THERE BE MORE OF THEM?!
ざわ
MURMUR
ざわ
MURMUR
IF WE TAKE THEM TOO LIGHTLY WE'RE GONNA END UP BADLY HURT!!
OUR OPPONENT IS NARSUS!!
THEY'RE UP AGAINST THE THOUSAND MEN OF OUR ARMY, YOU KNOW?!
ざわ
MURMUR

GA-CLANG
ガキィン
BATHUNK
ドガッ
THUD
THUD
CLANG
キィン
NEIIGHHHH
CLATTER
CLATTER
MURMUR
さわ
MURMUR
さわ
MURMUR
ざわ
...
THUD...
ごん...
MHH
...
CLATTER
ガラ
ガラ
CLATTER
ザ
ド、
ROLL
ゴロ
ROLL
ゴ
グシャ
TH-SHUMP
ド
GWOH!
BLLL
ゴ
??

IT'S DARYUN !!
MARZBĀN DARYUN IS CHARGING IN TO US!!
WAH ?
GYAH!
GWAH!
EEEEEEEEEEEKKK !!
SCATTER!!

THE SOLDIERS ARE PULLING BACK...
BWOOSH
THUNK
GR... GYAHH

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

Manga
HIROMU ARAKAWA
Original Script
YOSHIKI TANAKA
(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)

Chapter Fourteen / The King's Whereabouts

GA-CLANG
CLING
CLANG
CRING
GA-CLANG
KR-SKRRRRR
SHAKE
SHAKE

SK-SKRR
THERE'S NO LONGER ANY WAY TO RESTORE THE RANKS, IS THERE...?
YOU'RE RUNNING, KHARLAN ?!
TAKING ON A YOUNG BOY AS YOUR OPPONENT IS THE LIMIT OF YOUR BRAVERY?!
ガラカラッ
YOU INEXPERIENCED BOY!!
DON'T GET SO FULL OF YOURSELF !!

CLANGGG
HIS BACK ...
I'VE GOT HIM!!
FWBAMM

グボッ
GA-THUMP
GHA
...

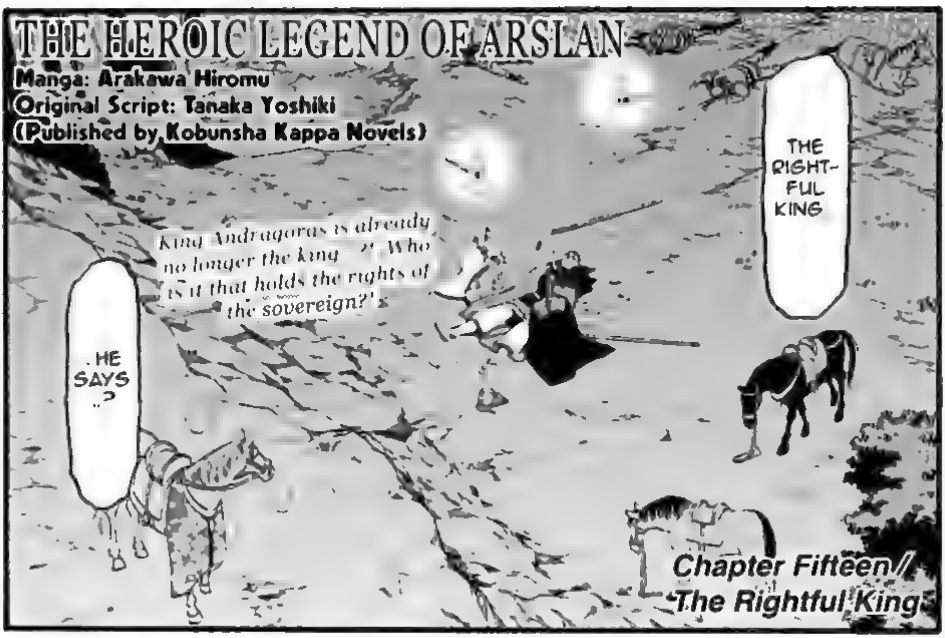
GOOD!
WHOA.
KA-THUNK
STANDD
YOU'RE A STUBBORN ONE!
I'M NOT DONE YET!!
NOT YET...

BA CLANGG
WHOA!!
THUD
CLACK
DRIPPP

!!
SPLOSHH
KHARLAN!!
TH-SK-SHHH

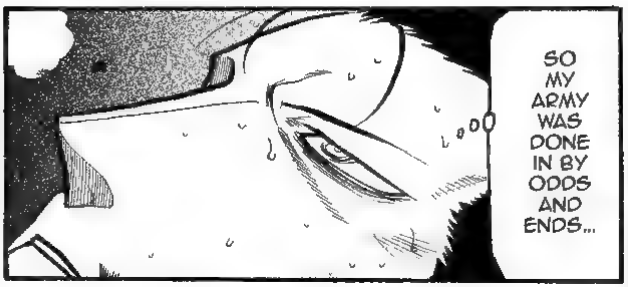
SPLUSHH
ゴぶっ
KHARLAN! WHERE IS THE KING?!
WHEEZEEE
WHEEZEEE
...K.NG... ANDRA ...
... GORAS IS...
...STILL ALIVE...

BUT THE THRONE IS ALREADY NO LONGER HIS...
THE RIGHTFUL KING IS
His Father King, Andragoras, lives!! The legend moves on to the next stage, over his throne and his fate!!
END of chapter 14

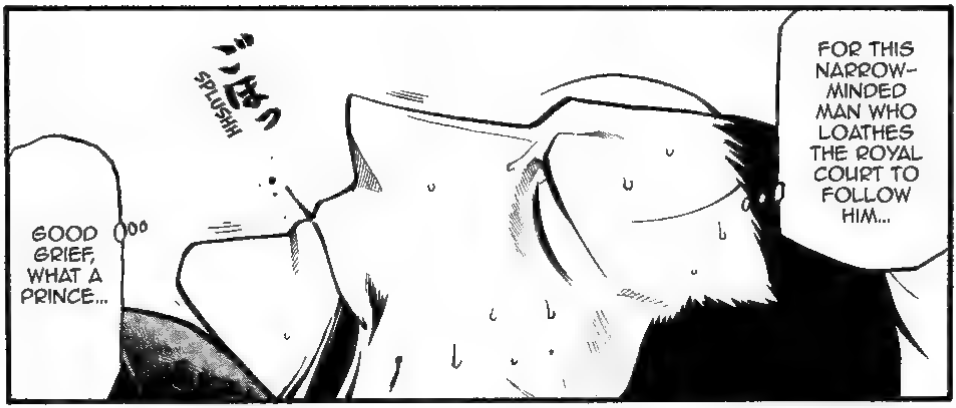

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN
Manga: Arakawa Hiromu
Original Script: Tanaka Yoshiki
(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)
THE RIGHT-FUL KING
King Andragoras is already no longer the king ... Who is it that holds the rights of the sovereign?!
HE SAYS ..?
Chapter Fifteen / The Rightful King

DON'T DIE, KHAR-LAN!!

KHARLAN!!
s squad drives back Kharlan's army!!
Andragoras' survival is confirmed!!



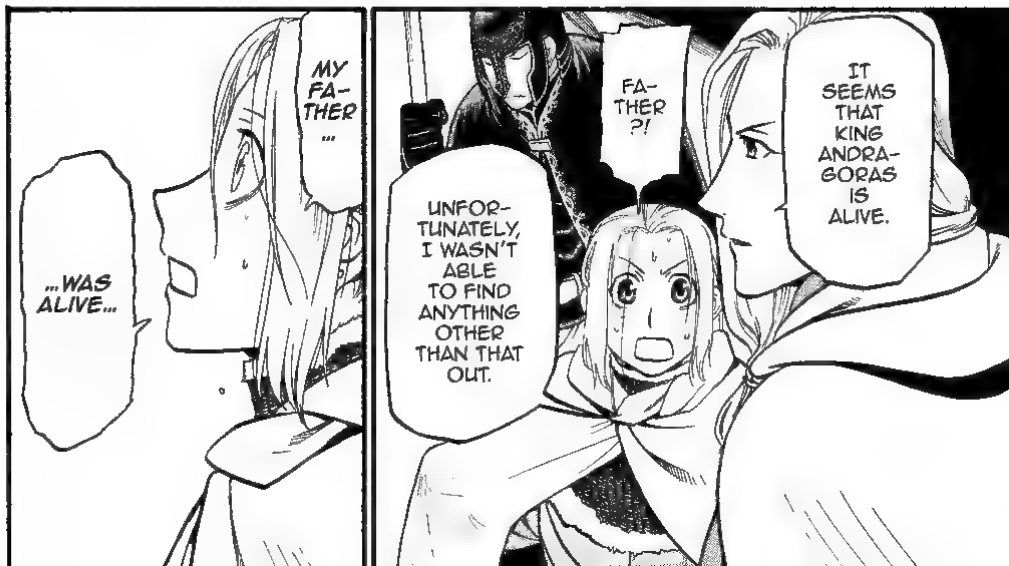
This story is fiction. It has no connection to real people, groups or events.


FOR THIS NARROW-MINDED MAN WHO LOATHES THE ROYAL COURT TO FOLLOW HIM...
ジュバッ
SPLUSHH
GOOD GRIEF, WHAT A PRINCE...

DON'T DIE, KHAR-LAN!!
LIVE!

I CAN'T FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS!!

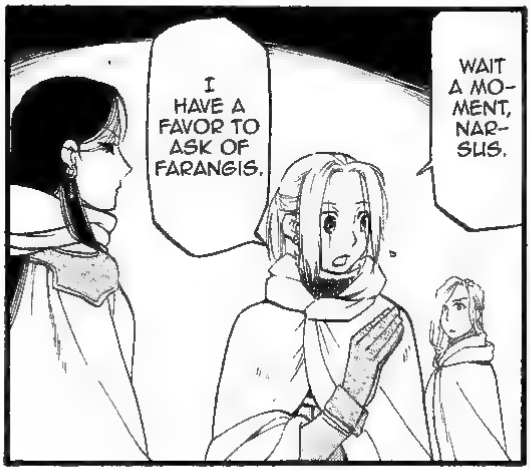
THUNK...
ごと...
SPLOOSHH
ガボッ


MY FA-THER ...
...WAS ALIVE...
FA-THER ?!
UNFOR-TUNATELY, I WASN'T ABLE TO FIND ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT OUT.
IT SEEMS THAT KING ANDRA-GORAS IS ALIVE.

YOUR HIGH-NESS,
IF HE IS ALIVE, THEN YOU'LL LIKELY SEE HIM AT SOME POINT!
IF THE LUSITANIAN ARMY HAS LET THE KING LIVE UNTIL THIS DAY, THERE MUST BE A PROPER REASON!
THEY'RE NOT LIKELY TO HARM HIM FOR NO GOOD REASON AFTER THIS EITHER!
...HM.
THAT'S RIGHT!
I MUST INTRO-DUCE YOU BOTH TO HIS HIGH-NESS.
MY NAME IS FA-RANGIS.
I SERVED THE TEMPLE OF MITHRA IN KHŪ-ZESTAN.
AS THE FINAL WILL OF THE PREVIOUS HEAD KAHINA, I HAVE COME TO YOU.
OH, SO IT IS THE BLESS-ING OF GOD MITHRA!
JUST NOW YOU SAVED ME FROM A MOMENT OF DANGER.
I GIVE YOU MY THANKS.

I'VE COME AFTER ESCAPING FROM THE ROYAL CAPITAL ECBATANA TO SERVE YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS.
MY NAME IS GIEVE.

PLEASE TELL ME IN DETAIL.
REAL-LY?!
YOUR HIGH-NESS, QUEEN TAHAMENAY WAS STILL SAFE AND SOUND WHEN I ESCAPED.


I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF FARANGIS.
WAIT A MO-MENT, NAR-SUS.

LET'S CHANGE LOCA-TIONS.
IT WILL BE BOTHER-SOME IF THE REMNANTS OF KHARLAN'S ARMY RETURN.

COULD YOU PLEASE OFFER A FUNERARY PRAYER FOR KHARLAN AND HIS MEN'S DEATHS?
THERE MUST BE THOSE WHO HAD FAMILIES IN ECBATANA AMONG THEM.
BUT EVEN SO, THEY MUST HAVE HAD A REASON THEY NEEDED TO SUPPORT A TRAITOR, I THINK.
PLEASE, A PRAYER FROM THE GOD WHO MOURNS THE WARRIORS.
MITHRA IS A GOD OF PROMISES AND LOYALTY, BUT HE IS ALSO A GOD OF WAR.

...HE REALLY IS A SOFT PRINCE.
FOR HIM TO HOLD A FUNERAL FOR TRAITORS...
I ACCEPT.
THERE REALLY AREN'T ANY PROPER ROYAL COURTS NOW.

IF IT GETS TOO STUFFY, I CAN JUST RUN OFF...
WELL, FOR NOW I GET TO BE NEAR LADY FARANGIS, AND I ALSO GET MY HANDS ON A JUSTIFICATION TO KILL SOME LUSITANIAN SOLDIERS AT THE POINT OF MY SWORD.

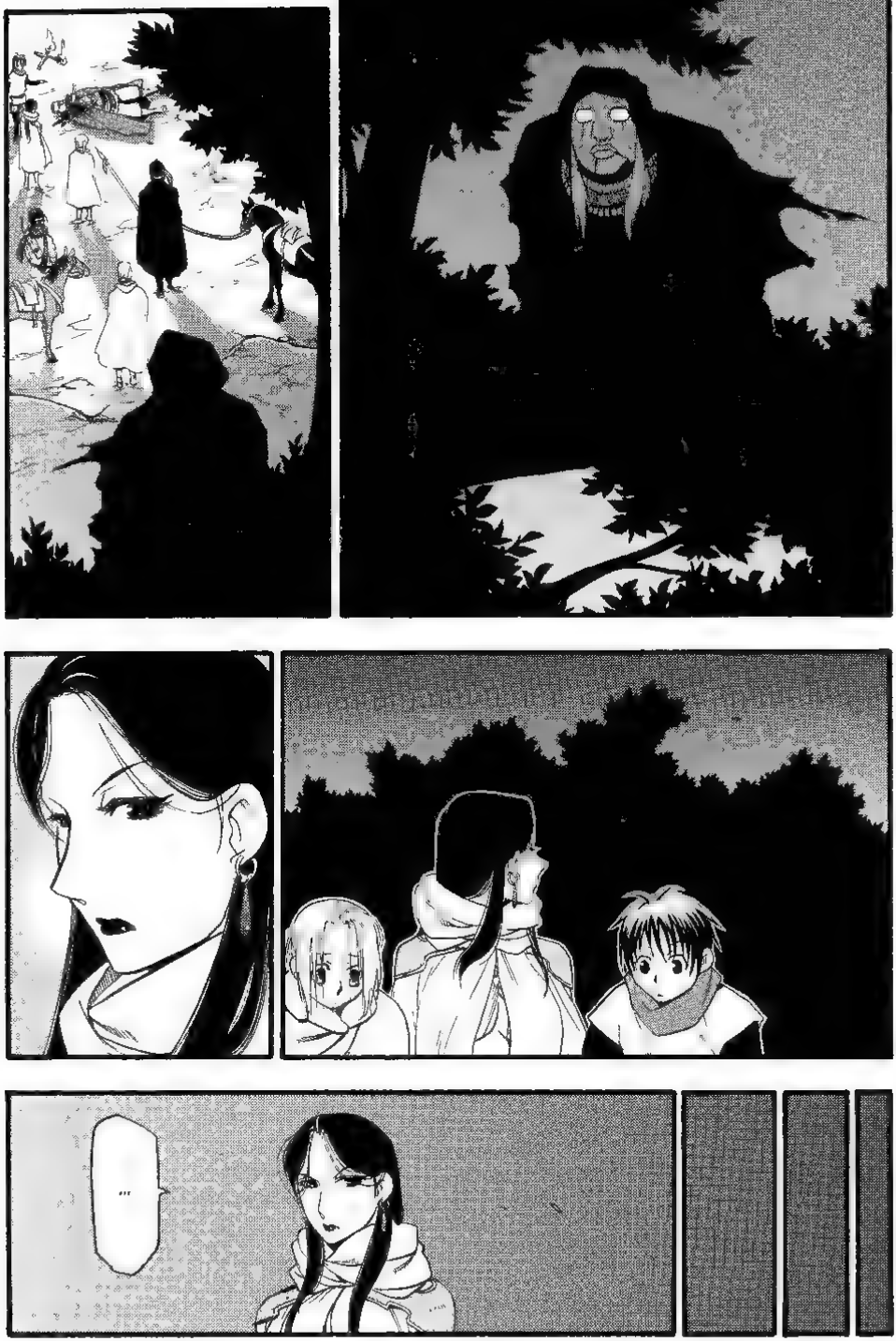
HE'S INDUBITABLY SKILLED.
ESPECIALLY THAT MAN.
WELL, WHILE IT'S TRUE OUR STRENGTH HAS INCREASED BY HALF, I WONDER IF IT IS TRULY ALRIGHT TO TRUST THEM.
SO FOUR PEOPLE HAVE BECOME SIX.

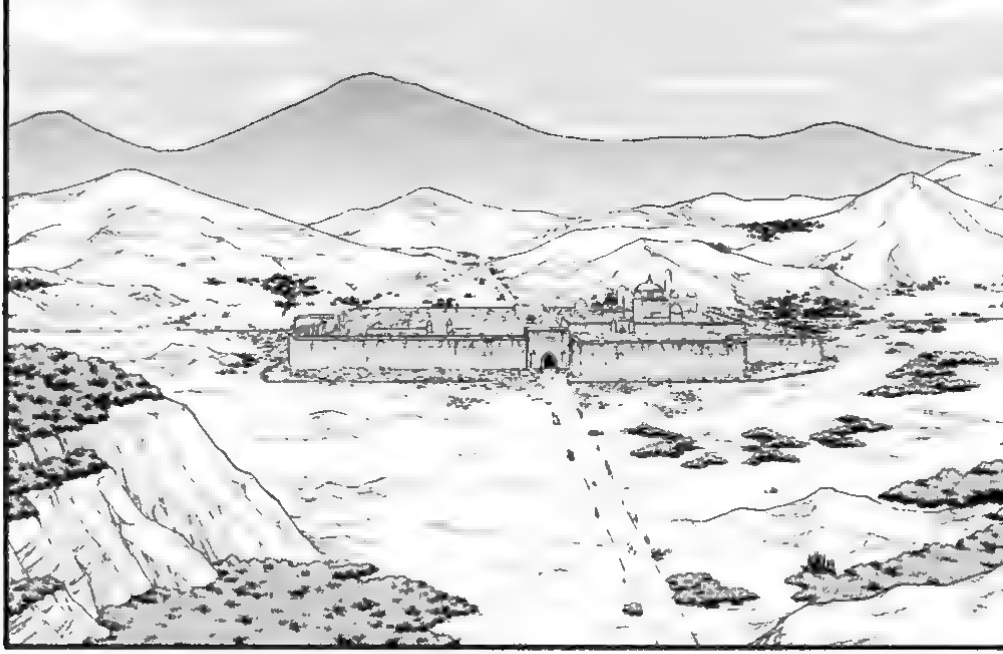
HMHH...IT'S TRUE THAT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO MANAGE SOMEHOW BY MYSELF IF THERE WERE 50,000 MEN...
THIS GUY REALLY LOOKS LIKE HE WOULD DO IT...

IF THE LUSITANIAN ARMY HAS 300,000 SOLDIERS, THEN IT MEANS THAT WE JUST NEED TO GET RID OF 50,000 EACH.
IT'S BECOME MUCH SIMPLER, HASN'T IT?

SHALL WE GO...
...TO ECBATANA?

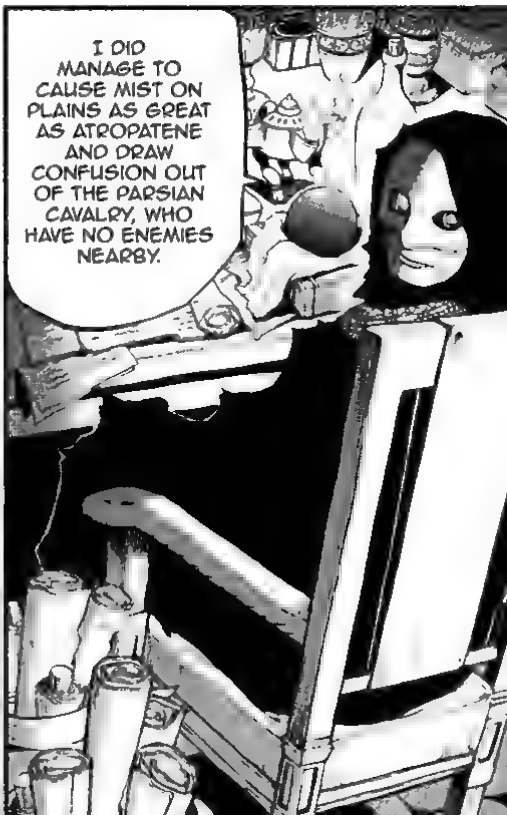
WELL THEN, WE'RE AT A POINT WHERE WE'LL NEED TO GENUINELY ASCERTAIN THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE KING AND QUEEN.





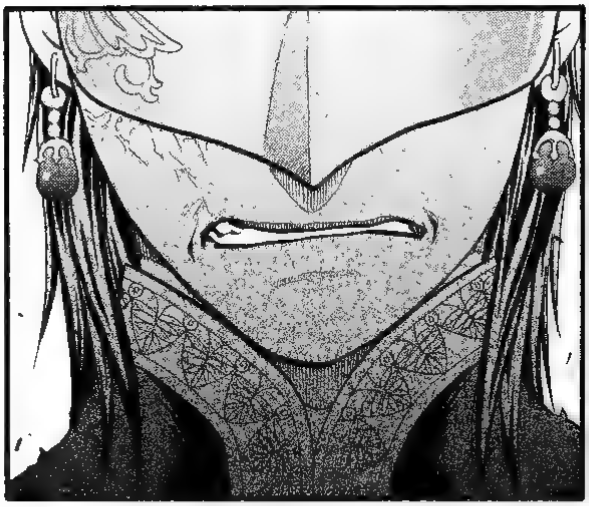
DON'T BLAME ME JUST BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE SITTING HERE.
I STILL HAVEN'T RECOVERED ALL MY STRENGTH SINCE I USED THAT SORCERY.

IT SEEMS YOU HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT TO SPEAK.


I DID MANAGE TO CAUSE MIST ON PLAINS AS GREAT AS ATROPATENE AND DRAW CONFUSION OUT OF THE PARSIAN CAVALRY, WHO HAVE NO ENEMIES NEARBY.

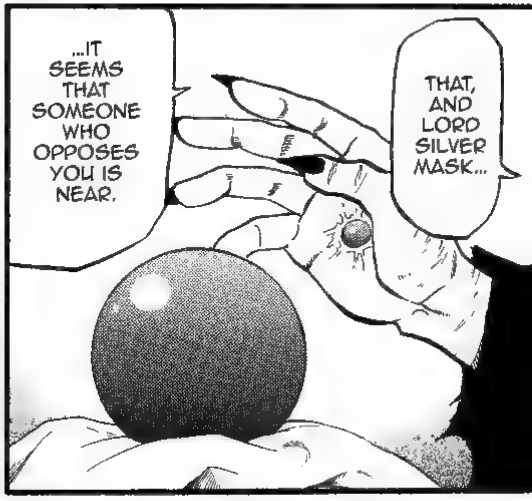
OH, THAT'S IT.
MORE THAN THAT, HOW ABOUT TALKING ABOUT THE BUSINESS YOU WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO SUMMON ME HERE FOR.

KHAR-LAN IS DEAD.
WHAT PITI-FUL BUSI-NESS ...
FOR HIM TO HAVE ENDED UP A CORPSE EXPOSED TO THE FIELDS STILL WEARING THE DISGRACE OF A TRAITOR...
WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF HIS DEATH?
...KHAR-LAN DID HIS BEST FOR ME.
I'LL TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY AND SUPPORT HIS BEREAVED FAMILY.



HE WAS DONE IN BY THE PARTY OF... ANDRAS-ORAS' LITTLE BASTARD.

ME...? IS IT ANDRAS-ORAS' BASTARD?
...NO, THAT'S INCOR-RECT.
BUT IT SEEMS TO BE SOME-ONE CLOSE TO HIM.


THAT, AND LORD SILVER MASK...
...IT SEEMS THAT SOMEONE WHO OPPOSES YOU IS NEAR.

GA-CLANNG
FINE THEN NO MATTER WHO IT MIGHT BE, I ONLY NEED TO DRIVE THEM AWAY.
THIS IS YOUR REWARD, AS USUAL.

WHO IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW AS MUCH.
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? THAT THE SORCERY EXHAUSTS MY POWER.
IT WILL LIKELY TAKE THE WHOLE REST OF THE YEAR UNTIL I RECOVER MY ENERGY.

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
THE SUN OF PARS DOES NOT SHINE JUST FOR YOU.
BE CAREFUL, LORD SILVER MASK.
CONFIDENCE AND OVER-CONFIDENCE ARE DIFFICULT TO TELL APART, LIKE THE NIGHT AND THE DARKNESS...
"Is this man's sorcery the cause of their defeat? Paral mal power and Silver Mask lie in wait for Arslan!"

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN
The royal capital of ecbatana has been taken over by the enemy nation Lusitania...
WHAM
GET BACK TO YOUR PEN! NOW!
GHOLAM AREN'T MEANT TO WALK THE MAIN STREETS!
BUT...
YOU TOLD US THAT IF WE HELPED THE LUSITANIAN ARMY GET INSIDE THE CASTLE, YOU WOULD FREE US!!

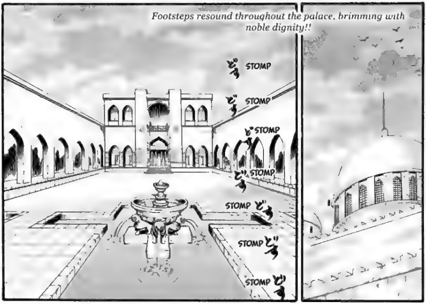
DON'T THINK YOU FILTHY HEATHENS--- SLAVES NO LESS--- CAN WALK THE SAME STREETS AS WE DISCIPLES OF THE GLORIOUS YALDABOATH!!
WHAM!
YOU MUST BE JOKING!
KILL MY MASS!
POW
KNOW YOUR PLACE!
HA!
THAT WAS NOT OUR DEAL !!
SO ON! GET BACK TO YOUR STY, PIGS!
DEAL ?
DO YOU MAKE DEALS WITH PIGS AND CATTLE?
CREAK

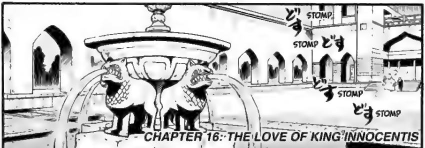
THIS BOOK IS FICTION. IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO REAL PEOPLE, LIVING OR DEAD.

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

Manga: Arakawa Hiromu
Original Script: Tanaka Yoshiki
(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)
NEWEST INSTALLMENT OF THE NOVEL SERIES, THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN 14

Take back the stolen kingdom and crown! This greatest of historical fantasies portrays an invincible tag team!!





CHAPTER 16: THE LOVE OF KING INNOCENTIS

どす
STOMP
HUFF
HUFF
どす
STOMP
HEE
HEE
どす
STOMP
どす
STOMP
LADY TAHA-MENAY!

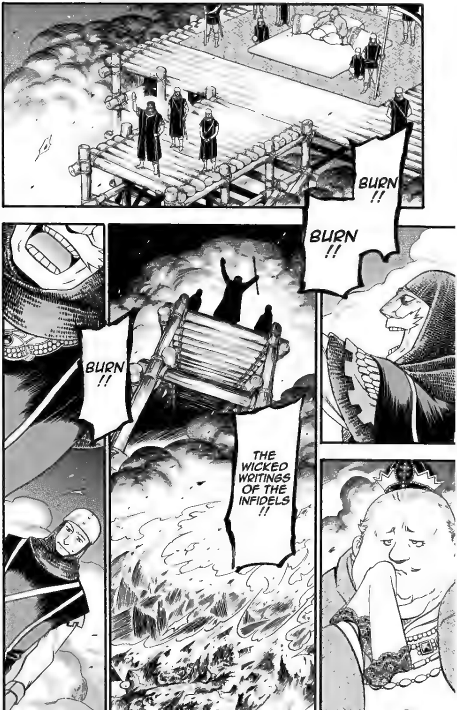
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED?
ASK ME FOR ANYTHING.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO WANT FOR ANYTHING...
...
T... TODAY, YOU SEE,
I'VE COME WITH GOOD NEWS!
AT THE START OF THE NEW YEAR, I WILL NO LONGER BE KING--I WILL BE NAMED EMPEROR.
THE EMPEROR OF THE NEW LUSITANIAN EMPIRE!
AND... YOU SEE.
LADY TAHAMENAY...

THE PUBLIC BELIEVES AN EMPEROR NEEDS AN EMPRESS.
AND I HAPPEN TO AGREE...
...
...?

WIFE OF KING ANDRAG-ORAS OF PARS,
BAM
TAHAMENAAAY!!!
DAMNED HEATHEN, REFUSING THE GRACE OF YALDA-BOATH!!!
KAPOW
WHY DOESN'T HIS MAJESTY BURN HER AT THE STAKE?!!!
I BELIEVE HE INTENDS TO TRAIN TAHAMENAY IN THE WAYS OF YALDABOATH... TO CONVERT HER?
NO!!
A CON-VERSION THROUGH ANY MEANS BUT TORTURE IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED!!

NO MERCY !!!
SHE MUST BURN !!!

BWOH


BURN !!
BURN !!
BURN !!
THE WICKED WRITINGS OF THE INFIDELS !!

...YOUR HOLI- NESS.
I KNOW THESE ARE THE WRITINGS OF HEATHENS... BUT IS IT REALLY WISE TO THROW SO MANY VALUABLE TOMES INTO THE FLAMES WITHOUT STUDYING THEM?
EVEN IF THEY MUST BE BURNED... MIGHT YOU TAKE SOME TIME TO DETERMINE THEIR TRUE WORTH FIRST?
BAM!!!
BLAS- PHEM- ER!!
THE WORLD OF MEN NEEDS NOTHING MORE THAN THE SCRIP- TURES OF YALDA- BOATH!
THESE DEVIL- INSPIRED WRITINGS MUST BE DE- STROYED!
BUT YOUR EXCEL- LENCY ...
TO BURN BOOKS OF MEDICINE ...

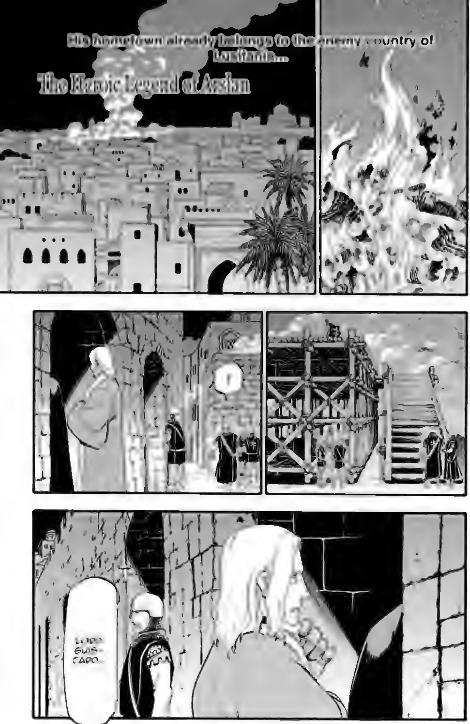
WHAM
WAAA
AAAAHH!
ONE WHO REVERES YALDABOATH WITH ALL HIS HEART WILL NEVER BE TAKEN BY DEMONS OF DISEASE!
ANY WHO FALL ILL ARE RECEIVING DIVINE ADMONITION FOR THE SEEDS OF EVIL IN THEIR HEARTS!

EVEN IF HE IS THE RULER OF A NATION...
EVEN IF HE IS THE RULER OF A NATION!!!
WHEN HE ENTERTAINS THE WICKED NOTION OF TAKING A HEATHEN WOMAN TO WIFE!!!
THE POISON OF DISEASE BECOMES THE DIVINE ROD TO SMITE THE PROUD!!!
REPENT, ALL YE OF WICKED HEARTS!!
ぎゃあ AAA
ああああ AAA
あああああ AAAAAUGH

LOOK AT THAT ARCHBISHOP CONDUCTING THE PROCEEDINGS.
IT'S ONE THING TO STEAL A PEOPLE'S PROPERTY, BUT TO BURN THEIR CULTURE TO ASHES...
HE'S DANCING AND SCREAMING AS IF HE ENJOYS IT.
THEY DON'T EVEN DESERVE TO BE CALLED BARBARIANS.
THEY ARE BEHAVING LIKE MONKEYS.

...LET ME KILL THIS "BODIN" FELLOW.
I'LL LEAVE THE KING AND HIS BROTHER TO YOU.
FAIR ENOUGH, DARYLIN'?
LET ME HAVE HIM.
VERY WELL.
Two heroes successfully infiltrate ectabana! Let the liberation begin!!

EARTH-SHATTERING ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE NEXT ISSUE! TO BE CONTINUED!


His hometown already belongs to the enemy country of Lusitania...
The Heroic Legend of Arslan
LORD GUIS-CARD...

LORD GUIS-CARD!
MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU A MO-MENT
WHAT A CREEPY BAS-TARD.

IT'S HARD TO FORGIVE THE ARCHBISHOP'S INSOLENT MANNER OF SPEECH TOWARDS HIS MAJESTY THE KING, BUT I DO FEEL THAT HIS POINT MAY BE REASONABLE ONE...
LORD GUIS-CARD.
MAY I HAVE A MO-MENT?
WHAT IS IT?
...IT IS IN REGARDS TO WHAT JUST HAPPENED WITH ARCH-BISHOP BODIN.
IN SHORT?
WE'D LIKE TO HAVE HIM CALL A STOP TO THIS MARRIAGE TO TAHAMENAY AT ONCE!
LORD GUISCARD, IF YOU WERE TO SPEAK TO HIM, EVEN HIS MAJESTY WOULD BE SURE TO LISTEN!

BUT HOW COULD THAT BE?! AND AFTER YOU ALSO SHOWED SUCH DISPLEASURE TO HEAR THE WEDDING AN-NOUNCEMENT, LORD GUISCARD!!
I'LL DIS-CUSS IT AGAIN WITH HIM SOME OTHER TIME.
HMH.
AS FAR AS THAT GOES...
...I'D LIKE TO WAIT FOR A WHILE AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
LORD GUIS-CARD!!
I'D HOPED TO HAVE LORD GUISCARD PUT A STOP TO HIS MAJESTY'S MARRIAGE TO TAHAMENAY, BUT HIS RESPONSE SEEMED RATHER VAGUE...
WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, MONT-FERRAT!

ALL THE SAME... I REALLY DON'T LIKE THAT MAN...
...WHAT COULD THIS MEAN, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SO OPPOSED TO THE MARRIAGE BEFORE...?
WELL...
COULD THAT SILVER MASK HAVE PUT SOME KIND IDEA INTO HIS HEAD...?

The Heroic Legend of Arslan

Chapter 17: Beneath the Mask

Manga: Arakawa Hiromu x Original Script: Tanaka Yoshiki

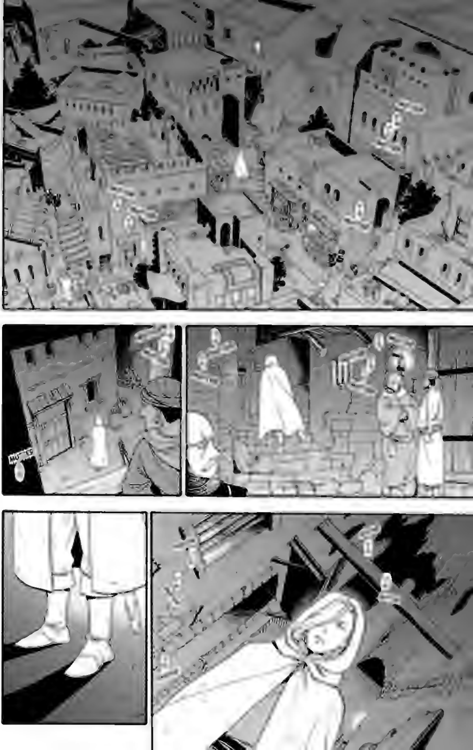
(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)

I HAD PREPARED MYSELF FOR THIS, BUT ACTUALLY SEEING THE LUSITANIAN ARMY PUTTING ON AIRS IN THE ROYAL CAPITAL ECBATANA LIKE THIS GIVES ME AN ACUTE FEELING OF OUR LOSS.
WELL THEN, HOW WILL WE GET THIS PLACE BACK?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT WELL, FOR EXAMPLE...
... WE COULD FREE ALL THE GHOLAM IN PARS IN THE NAME OF THE PRINCE AND PROMISE TO COMPLETELY ABOLISH SLAVERY.
IF EVEN ONE TENTH AMONG THEM WERE TO TAKE UP WEAPONS, WE COULD FORM A MASSIVE ARMY OF MORE THAN 500,000.
THAT IS SUPPOSING THE CONDITION THAT THEY'RE SELF-SUSTAINING, THOUGH.
HOWEVER, IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF THE NOBLES AND FEUDAL LORDS WHO OWN GHOLAM.
I SEE.

WHILE YOU WERE THE LORD OF DAYLAM YOU FREED THE GHOLAM AND GAVE UP YOUR LAND, DIDN'T YOU?
I AM AN ECCENTRIC, AFTER ALL!
... ON TOP OF THAT, EVEN IF YOU FREE THE GHOLAM THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT EVERYTHING WILL JUST BE FINE.
THE AFTERMATH IS MORE TROUBLE-SOME.
IT WON'T GO JUST AS WE IMAGINE IT WHILE SITTING AT OUR DESKS.

I'LL COME AGAIN!
HAVE SOME GOOD ALCOHOL READY FOR ME!
THUD
OWW !!
HEYY! GET OUT OF THE WAY, YOU DUNCE!!
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHO YOU'RE BUMPING IN TO?!
I'M LORD ERĀN KHARLAN'S...
..SUBORDINATE.. 'S..

DA...
EEEE!! DARYUN!!
DASH
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
THUD
FOR HIM TO RUN OFF WITHOUT EVEN HAVING FOUGHT YOU..
HE REALLY KNOWS THE LIMITS OF HIS OWN ABILITIES
SHALL WE CHASE HIM?
HM.
FIRST, LET ME GO AFTER HIM ALONE.



SO IT IS NARSUS, AFTER ALL.
HEH... HEHE...
LET'S HAVE YOU SPIT OUT PRINCE ARSLAN'S LOCATION BEFORE YOU DIE.

FWISH
UUHH ?
POP
NHHGAAAAAHHHH
DID YOU THINK THAT I'D BE EASY TO TAKE OUT IF I WAS ALONE?
AH...
SLIDE

...
SLIDE...
WH...
STAB
THUD
AH!
EEEH!
GA-THUNK

がらーん
CLANGG
LET'S HAVE YOU SPIT OUT KING ANDRAGORAS' LOCATION BEFORE YOU DIE
I DON'T KNOW!!
I REALLY DON'T KNOW!!
SH-CLACK
ズチャッ
IT'S TRUE!!
MY LIFE IS DEAR TO ME TOO!! IF I KNEW, I'D TELL YOU!!
I WOULDN'T MIND EVEN JUST A SIMPLE RUMOR.
REMEMBER ONE FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.
EEK!
ひっ
K... KING ANDRAGORAS IS ALIVE!!
WE KNOW THAT.
IT SEEMS HE'S BEEN LOCKED UP SOME-WHERE!
LORD KHARLAN HADN'T TOLD ANYONE BUT HIS VERY, VERY CLOSE ADVISORS THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE!

I HEARD THE LUSITANIAN SOLDIERS GOSSIPING...
... THAT... SHE'S GOING TO MARRY THE LUSITANIAN KING, INNOCENTIS THE SEVENTH.
EVEN THE LUSITANIAN GENERALS DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT!
WHAT ABOUT QUEEN TAHAMENAY?
THEY SAY THAT THE LUSITANIAN KING FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT...
SO THIS TIME IT'S THE LUSITANIAN KING.
HER LADYSHIP THE QUEEN'S BEAUTY IS A DAMNED CRIME.
BUT IF THE QUEEN WAS TO MARRY, THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO KING ANDRAGORAS' STATUS.

JUST AS IN ANY COUNTRY, THERE'S NO REASON THAT BIGAMY WOULD BE RECOGNIZED.
EVEN IF HE IS ALIVE NOW, HE MIGHT BE HARMED AS AN OBSTRUCTION TO THE MARRIAGE.
OR ELSE THE KING OF LUSITANIA MIGHT BE PRESSING THE QUEEN TO MARRY HIM IN EXCHANGE FOR KING ANDRAGORAS' LIFE.
WE NEED MORE INFORMATION RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
SHOULD WE SPLIT UP AND GO HUNTING AGAIN?
YEAH.
IF NOTHING TURNS UP, LET'S MEET OUTSIDE OF THAT BAR WE JUST PASSED AGAIN
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
I WONDER WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO LORD GARSHASH, WHO WAS PROTECTING ECBATANA...?
I DON'T KNOW WHERE LORD SAM WENT EITHER.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
I WONDER HOW MANY ALLIES OF HIS HIGHNESS STILL REMAIN...?
TWITCH

I HEARD THERE WAS SOMEONE SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANGGHH
CLANG
STAB
CRINGG
STAB
FWISH

!
FWOOSH
NNEIGHHH
THUMP
GA-CLANG
CRINGG
CLANG
CLANG
GA-CRING
GA-CRKK

FOOL.
LET ME ASK YOUR NAME.
DARYUN.
...THIS IS HILARIOUS.
SO YOU'RE THE NEPHEW OF THAT VAHRIZ.
GA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA.
DARYUN!! LET ME TELL YOU!!

I'M THE ONE WHO KILLED YOUR UNCLE VAHRIZ!!
THAT LAPDOG OF ANDRAGORAS' EARNED HIMSELF A FITTING PUNISHMENT!!
HOW ABOUT YOU ALSO TAKE A LESSON FROM YOUR UNCLE ON HOW TO DIE?!
ギッ
CRINGGG
おおっ
WHOAAH
みしっ
GRIPP

WHAMMM
KA-THUNK
NHHH...
NHOOOHH...

...YYYY ÖUUUU BAST ARDDD ...
DARYUN!!

Manga: Arakawa Hiromu x Original Script: Tanaka Yoshiki
(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)
THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

This story is fiction.

BURNS ...?
GA-CRINNNGG

CHA-CLACK
THUNK TH-THUNK THUNK
CRINGG
CRING
CR-CRINGG
SLICEE

ビュ
VWOOM
オッ
ザァ
SKRRSHHH
アアア

...
HEY, HEY, AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK MY NAME?
IT'S EMBARRASSING FOR ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.
... WHO ARE YOU?
YOU BUFFOON.
I DON'T LIKE YOUR WAY OF SPEAKING, BUT SO LONG AS I'VE BEEN ASKED, I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.
SWISH
SWISH
MY NAME IS NARSUS!
I'M THE MAN WHO WILL SERVE AS THE COURT PAINTER DURING THE REIGN OF THE NEXT KING OF PARS.
SNAP

COURT PAINTER, YOU SAY?
SENSIBLE PEOPLE CALL ME THE SECOND COMING OF THE MASTER PAINTER MANI.
WHO WOULD CALL YOU THAT?!
PHEW...
WHAT'S THAT?
A FIGHT?
MUTTER
MUTTER
WHO IS IT?
THEY'RE NOT LUSITANIAN SOLDIERS, ARE THEY?
MUTTER
MUTTER
I'LL LEAVE THIS FIGHT FOR A LATER DAY.
FOR TODAY, LET'S KEEP IT AS A DRAW.

NO NEED TO DRAW OUT 'TIL TOMORROW WHAT WE CAN DO TODAY!
WOOSH
THUNK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK CLACK
CLANG CL..

THIS IS GOOD-BYE, YOU THIRD-RATE PAINTER.
IMPROVE YOUR PAINTING SKILLS FOR THE NEXT TIME WE MEET.
CLACK
CL-CLATTERR
RATTLE
RATTLE
THUDD

I DON'T KNOW WHO THE BASTARD WAS, BUT HE'S FRIGHTEN INGLY SKILLED.
IF YOU HADN'T SAVED ME MY HEAD WOULD BE SMASHED OPEN RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT!!
THE BASTARD HAD THE NERVE TO CALL ME A THIRD-RATE PAINTER!!
WE'RE INFESTED BY GLOATING BASTARDS WHO DON'T UNDER-STAND ART OR CULTURE!!
THEY SHOULD CALL THIS A DEGENER-ATE AGE!!

BY THE WAY, THAT MAN SEEMED HE REALLY KNEW YOUR UNCLE. WERE THEY OLD ACQUAINTANCES?
WAS THINKING ABOUT THAT TOO, BUT NO MATTER HOW I TRY, I CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER HIM.
I THOUGHT THAT MASK WAS JUST FOR SHOW, BUT IT SEEMS THAT IT WASN'T.
WITH A BURN THAT TERRIBLE HE'S LIKELY GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO HIDE HIS FACE.
HM...
OR ELSE HE DOESN'T WANT HIS REAL FACE TO BE KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE...
THAT FACE... I FEEL LIKE IF THERE WAS NO BURN I MIGHT BE ABLE TO REMEMBER IT, BUT...

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO WORRIED, ELAM.
I'M JUST GOING TO THE RIVER TO WASH MY FACE.
NO, I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU!

AFTER ALL, YOUR HIGHNESS, I'VE GOT TO PROTECT YOU WHILE SIR NARSUS AND SIR DARYUN ARE INFILTRATING THE CAPITAL!!
I DON'T THINK YOU NEED TO BE SO ON EDGE, AS GIEVE AND FARANGIS ARE HERE TOO...
NO! IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS, I'D BE ASHAMED TO FACE SIR NARSUS!!
FINE, I GET IT.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, ELAM.
HM? WHERE'S HIS HIGHNESS GONE?
DOWN TO THE RIVER WITH ELAM.
HMM...
WE NEED HIM TO BE CAREFUL, AS THE AREA AROUND HERE IS WITHIN THE ZOT CLAN'S TERRITORY.
THEY SOMETIMES RESORT TO ACTS OF THIEVERY, AFTER ALL.
WE SHOULDN'T LIKELY NEED TO WORRY, AS LONG AS ELAM IS WITH HIM.

...THERE ARE RELIGIOUS ARTIFACTS STICKING OUT OF YOUR PACKS. DID YOU HAPPEN TO STEAL THEM BACK FROM BANDITS, I WONDER?
THAT'S ALSO RIGHT!
AND THANKS TO THAT I CAN BE ALONE WITH YOU LIKE THIS, LADY FARANGIS.
BY THE WAY...
...I'LL GO PATROL THE AREA.
PLEASE DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH.
THE WATER IN THIS SEASON WILL CHILL YOUR STOMACH.
I KNOW.
SSSHHHHHHHH

THE FOG MAKES IT EASY FOR YOUR FEET TO SLIP, SO BE CAREFUL!
I'M TELLING YOU, I KNOW...
SAVE ME, DARYUN ...
THE FOG...
...MAKES ME RE-MEMBER TERRIBLE THINGS...
SSSSSSHHHHHHHH
SPLASHH
NEIGHHH
!

THERE'S SOME-ONE ON THE OTHER SIDE.
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
IS IT A FARM-ER?
SSHHHHH...
A LUSITA-NIAN SOLDIER !!
!

...YOU BASTARD ...
I REMEMBER YOUR FACE.
Winners and losers! Thieves and the stolen! What do the two, who find themselves reversed, discuss, and what do they feel.. ?
A reunion with enemy soldier boy Etoile, who showed Arslan the wide world! The fates of the young men is about to change once again!!

The Heroic Legend of Arslan
Manga: Arakawa Hiromu
Original Script: Tanaka Yoshiki
(Published by Kobunsha Kappa Novels)
A sudden reunion with the Lusitanian boy who had taught Arslan about the wide world three years earlier.
Chapter 19: The Second Prince
YOU BAS-TARD... I MEAN ...
YOU'RE FROM ECBATANA ...
TSK
IT'S THE LUSITA-NIAN SOLDIER FROM THAT TIME...
WHAT A PAIN...

Story... Daryun and Narsus face off against Silver Mask in the royal capital, Ecbatana! On the other hand, Arslan and Elam, who wait for the pair to return, once again meet the Lusitanian boy soldier...

THE TABLES HAVE COMPLETELY TURNED! POOM THAT TIME.
YOU CAN'T MAKE US SLAVES ANYMORE.
I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE ALIVE!
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE THE TYPE TO DIE RIGHT OFF THE BAT!
HAHA... WELL, SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER...

THEY MUST BE SCARING EVERYONE INTO FOLLOWING THEM WITH THE WAY THEY LOOK!!
I HEARD THEY'RE SPROUTING CURVED HORNS, THAT THEIR MOUTHS OPEN ALL THE WAY TO THEIR EARS AND THEY HAVE BLACK, POINTY TAILS!!
THEY'RE WICKED PAGAN GENERALS, AFTER ALL!
EVEN IF YOU DON'T, THEN PEOPLE LIKE ANDRAGORAS OR ARSLAN LIKELY WILL!
...I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE YOU A GHOLAM.

This story is fiction. It has no connection to real people, groups or events.

ALL BECAUSE THIS IS A BARBARIC COUNTRY RULED BY DEMONS LIKE THEM!
JUST LOOK! THEY'VE BEEN DEALT A PUNISHMENT BY GOD!
SHALL WE KILL HIM?
HE MIGHT HAVE SOLDIERS WITH HIM.
I WANT TO AVOID OUR HIDEOUT BEING DISCOVERED BY CAUSING A STIR.
THAT'S RIGHT
WHISPER WHISPER
WELL, ANYWAY, THE FACT THAT I'VE MET YOU AGAIN LIKE THIS MUST BE THANKS TO GOD'S BLESSINGS.
?
MY FRIENDS ...
EVER SINCE THAT DAY, I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE LUSITANIAN SOLDIERS WHO WERE SOLD AS SLAVES ALONG WITH ME.
SURELY YOU MUST KNOW WHERE THEY ARE?!
!

...I DO KNOW ...
REALLY ?!
YOUR FRIENDS...
...HAVE ALL...
...BEEN KILLED.
BECAUSE THEY RIOTED THAT DAY AND NO ONE COULD DO ANYTHING...
...THE SLAVE TRADERS KILLED THEM...

...I SEE.
DON'T YOU WANT TO KILL US...?
SHH!
!

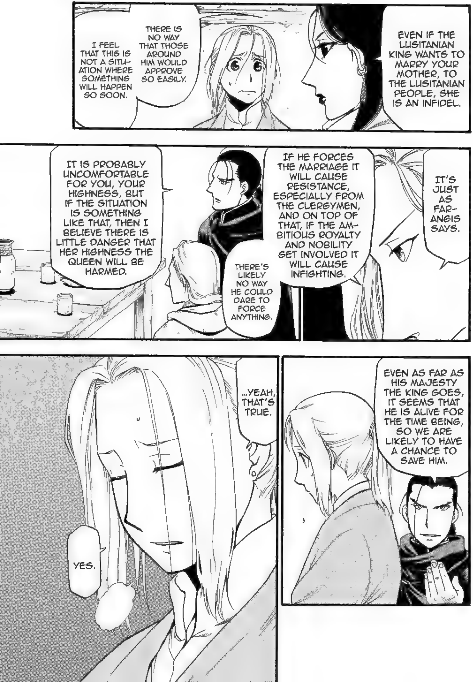
WHUP
ぽん
?!
IT'S A BIBLE.
IT ORIGINALLY ADDED UP TO HUNDREDS OF VOLUMES, BUT THAT ONE IS WRITTEN CONCISELY SO THAT EVEN A DULLARD LIKE YOURSELF CAN EASILY UNDERSTAND.
READ IT AND LEARN.
YOU'LL BE MY EQUAL IF YOU BECOME A BELIEVER OF THE GOD YALDA-BAOTH.
I WON'T KILL YOU.
I WON'T MAKE YOU SLAVES EITHER.

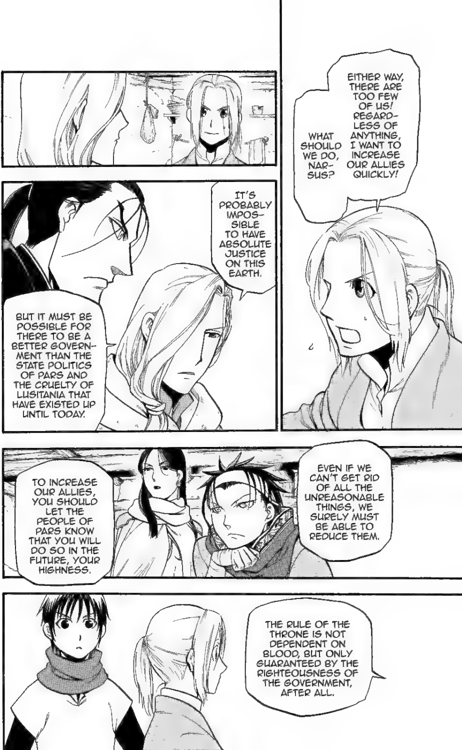
I'M ETOILE, A PAGE SERVING UNDER COUNT BARCACION.
AFTER THIS, I'LL BE HEADING EAST TO THE KEEP OF SAINT EMMANUEL, WHERE I'LL STAY FOR A WHILE.
CLACK
カッ
IF YOU EVER FEEL LIKE CON-VERTING, COME TO THE CASTLE.
I'LL EVEN TREAT YOU TO A MEAL.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
JUST THROW AWAY A THING LIKE THAT!
...

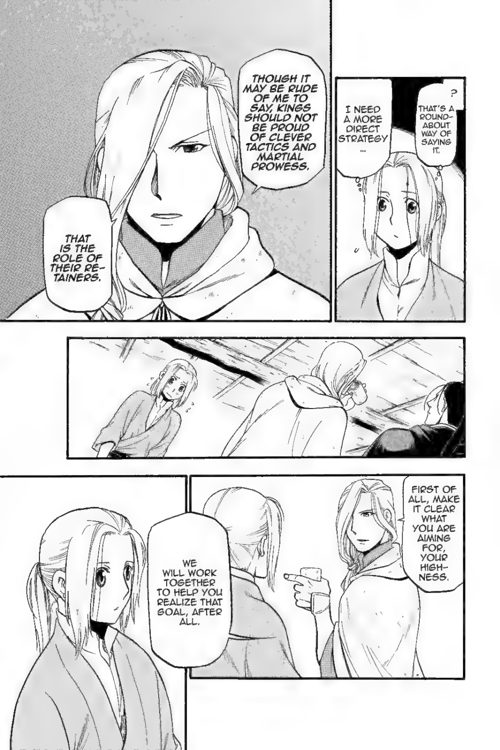
WHOOPS!
THE LUSITA-NIAN ARMY, HM?
IT'S BETTER NOT TO GET IN A FIGHT WITH THEM RIGHT NOW.
WELCOME BACK, SIR ETOILE.
I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING.
LET'S DEPART RIGHT AWAY
HM...
THAT KNIGHT ...

MY MOTHER IS BEING FORCED TO MARRY THE LUSITANIAN KING...?!
...

WE HAVE TO SAVE MOTHER AS QUICKLY AS POSSI-BLE...!!
THAT LYING QUEEN... I WONDER IF SHE ISN'T PRESSURING THE LUSITANIAN KING WITH HER CHARMS TO ENSURE HER OWN SAFETY?
SHE SEEMS LIKE THE KIND OF WOMAN TO AT LEAST TRY SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
BUT IF WE MAKE RESCUING THE QUEEN OUR UTMOST PRIORITY, THEN OUR TACTICAL CHOICES WILL NARROW CONSIDERABLY.
IT'S QUITE THE PINCH, YOUR HIGHNESS...
YOUR HIGH-NESS
YOU MUSTN'T BE HASTY.


EVEN IF THE LUSITANIAN KING WANTS TO MARRY YOUR MOTHER, TO THE LUSITANIAN PEOPLE, SHE IS AN INFIDEL.
THERE IS NO WAY THAT THOSE AROUND HIM WOULD APPROVE SO EASILY.
I FEEL THAT THIS IS NOT A SITUATION WHERE SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN SO SOON.
IT'S JUST AS FARANGIS SAYS.
IF HE FORCES THE MARRIAGE IT WILL CAUSE RESISTANCE, ESPECIALLY FROM THE CLERGYMEN, AND ON TOP OF THAT, IF THE AMBITIOUS ROYALTY AND NOBILITY GET INVOLVED IT WILL CAUSE INFIGHTING.
THERE'S LIKELY NO WAY HE COULD DARE TO FORCE ANYTHING.
IT IS PROBABLY UNCOMFORTABLE FOR YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT IF THE SITUATION IS SOMETHING LIKE THAT, THEN I BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE DANGER THAT HER HIGHNESS THE QUEEN WILL BE HARMED.
EVEN AS FAR AS HIS MAJESTY THE KING GOES, IT SEEMS THAT HE IS ALIVE FOR THE TIME BEING, SO WE ARE LIKELY TO HAVE A CHANCE TO SAVE HIM.
...YEAH, THAT'S TRUE.
YES.

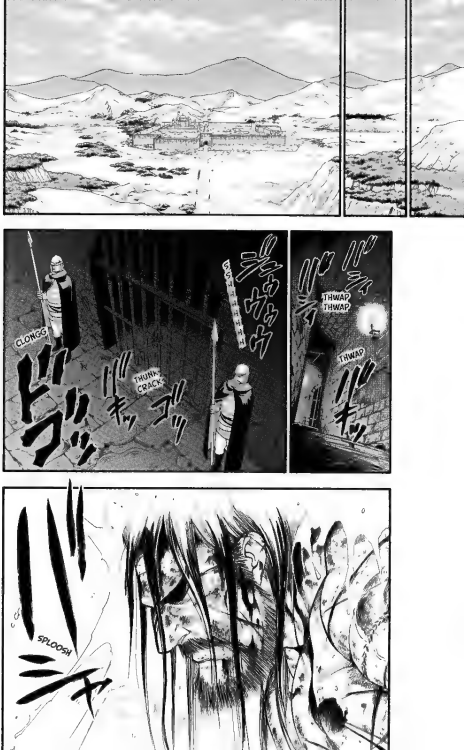

EITHER WAY, THERE ARE TOO FEW OF US! REGARD-LESS OF ANYTHING, I WANT TO INCREASE OUR ALLIES QUICKLY!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, NAR-SUS?
IT'S PROBABLY IMPOS-SIBLE TO HAVE ABSOLUTE JUSTICE ON THIS EARTH.
BUT IT MUST BE POSSIBLE FOR THERE TO BE A BETTER GOVERN-MENT THAN THE STATE POLITICS OF PARS AND THE CRUELTY OF LUSITANIA THAT HAVE EXISTED UP UNTIL TODAY.
EVEN IF WE CAN'T GET RID OF ALL THE UNREASONABLE THINGS, WE SURELY MUST BE ABLE TO REDUCE THEM.
TO INCREASE OUR ALLIES, YOU SHOULD LET THE PEOPLE OF PARS KNOW THAT YOU WILL DO SO IN THE FUTURE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
THE RULE OF THE THRONE IS NOT DEPENDENT ON BLOOD, BUT ONLY GUARANTEED BY THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT, AFTER ALL.



THOUGH IT MAY BE RUDE OF ME TO SAY, KINGS SHOULD NOT BE PROUD OF CLEVER TACTICS AND MARTIAL PROWESS.
THAT IS THE ROLE OF THEIR RE-TAINERS.
?
THAT'S A ROUND-ABOUT WAY OF SAYING IT.
I NEED A MORE DIRECT STRATEGY ...
FIRST OF ALL, MAKE IT CLEAR WHAT YOU ARE AIMING FOR, YOUR HIGH-NESS.
WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO HELP YOU REALIZE THAT GOAL, AFTER ALL.

ARE YOU SURE?
THAT'S HOW BAR-BARIANS ARE.
ONCE WE HAVE BEEN FULLY SUB-JUGATED, THE LUSITANIANS WILL LIKELY START WIPING OUT THE PARSIAN CULTURE.
THEY WILL FORBID THE USE OF THE PARSIAN LANGUAGE AND FORCE THE PARSIAN PEOPLE TO FIX THEIR NAMES IN THE LUSITA-NIAN STYLE.
THEY'LL PROBABLY DESTROY THE TEMPLES OF THE GODS OF PARSIAN LEGEND, AND BUILD TEMPLES TO THE GOD YALDABAOTH ALL OVER.
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT OTHER PEOPLE HAVE THINGS THAT ARE PRECIOUS TOO.
THE YAL-DABAOTH RELIGION HAS THREE WAYS TO DEAL WITH NON-BE-LIEVERS...
THOSE WHO GO FORWARD WITH CON-VERTING BECOME AZAT, FREE MEN
THOSE WHO ARE FORCIBLY CON-VERTED BECOME GHOLAM.
AND THOSE WHO STUB-BORNLY REFUSE TO CON-VERT...
SHHK

BUT I HEARD THAT UNDER THE GOD YALDABAOTH, ALL MEN ARE EQUAL AND THERE ARE NO *GHOLAM*...
THAT'S LIKELY JUST THEIR PUBLIC POSITION.
...
I WON'T LET THE PEOPLE OF PARS BECOME *GHOLAM!* I WON'T KILL THEM!
IN THAT CASE, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
PLEASE LEND YOUR STRENGTH TO ME, AS INEXPERIENCED THOUGH I AM!
WE HAVE VERY LITTLE POWER, BUT WE ARE MORE THAN HAPPY TO LEND A HAND...
...TO HELP YOUR HIGHNESS RESTORE PEACE TO PARS!
THANK YOU.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!


THWAP
THWAP
THWAP
SSHHHHHHH
THUNK
CRACK
CLONGG
SPLOOSH

YES SIR
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
カツーン
カツーン
ヤツーン
カツーン
カツーン

HOW GOES IT?
SIR.
AS ALWAYS I AM HAVING A DOCTOR TREAT HIM AFTER THE TORTURE.
THAT'S GOOD.
HURT HIM WITHOUT KILLING HIM.
AH...BE CARE-FUL!
YESTERDAY NIGHT HE STARTED TO RIP THE CHAINS APART, SO WE EXCHANGED THEM WITH CHAINS FOR USE ON LIONS.
AN-DRAG-ORAS ...
I'LL SAY IT ONCE AGAIN, BUT YOU MUST NOT KILL HIM.
WE'LL KILL HIM ONCE WE'VE DISPLAYED THE SEVERED HEAD OF HIS SON IN FRONT OF HIS VERY EYES.
STAND DOWN.
YES SIR!

OH, ANDRAGORAS. IT'S JUST AS YOU HEARD.
YOUR SON AND HEIR IS STILL ALIVE.
BUT HE WON'T BE FOR LONG.
HE'S ONLY JUST LIVING IN ORDER TO BE FOUND BY ME AND DIE AT MY HANDS.
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
...
YOU STILL DON'T KNOW?
WELL THEN I'LL TELL YOU.
IT SHOULDN'T BE A NAME THAT YOU DON'T KNOW.

MY NAME IS HERMES.
MY FATHER WAS YOUR OLDER BROTHER, OSROES.
... HERMES ...?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M HERMES.
CRACCK
THE SUCCESSOR OF THE LATE KING OSROES AND YOUR NEPHEW...

His true identity is the rightful successor to the throne!! The prince who should not have existed, now enters the battle of his fated history!!
AND THE TRUE SHAH OF PARS!!